Academic Priorities Council
Minutes
April 15, 2008

Tuesday, April 15 from 1-2:30 p.m. in CC805-09

Attendance: Margaret Allard, Richard Bogartz, Hiu F. Cheung, Curt Conner, Kathy Debevec, Jean DeMartinis, Anthony Guerrero, Bryan Harvey, Randall Knoper, Anne Moore (recording), Eliot Moss, Amanda Wilson

3. Supply and Demand conversation continued. See attached draft bulleted list prepared by Kathy Debevec, Margaret Allard, and Anne C. Moore. Kathy is preparing brief summaries of the meetings we held with Deans and administrators.

1. Minutes from the March 14th meeting were approved as presented.

2. Approval of proposals

a. SJE Graduate Certificate in Teaching for Diversity
Certificate cannot exist if the certificate courses overlap with requirements for a major: program- or curriculum-based
At this point courses must be specifically developed for the certificate.
If the certificate were based on the student, so coursework doesn’t overlap for that individual, it would be OK.
APC recommendation: eliminate overlap of courses with those required or taken for the major; re-write and re-submit once the new certificate policies are completed.

b. Du Bois Center
After discussion, the proposal was approved.
APC comment: The Committee would have liked to see firm evidence that stable funding is available to support the fellowships and other proposed activities.

c. Joint M.S./J.D. in Labor Studies and Law
Proposal was for a combined JD from WNEC School of Law and M.S. in Labor Studies at UMass in 4 years proposal.
An excellent concept, but APC has questions:
Are any of the required credits for either individual degree dropped? Does the dual program take any required courses away from either degree?
What are the required courses?
What is the student product?
What is the plan of study?
What would a transcript look like?
Has a needs assessment been conducted? What is the evidence of demand among students?
Would the JD be recognized elsewhere?
Would like more information on each program accepting a “B” or better on courses taken in the other program. What happens if the student gets lower than a “B” in a course?
APC recommendation: Reconsider with answers to our questions.

3. Supply and Demand Next Steps:
How to use money we have creatively to offer classes in different ways: correctly sized rooms, other teaching models; ways to deliver quality advising;
Raise awareness that these are all issues amongst faculty; resources need to be identified to address these issues; we have suggested possible actions
Should we have a discussion in Faculty Senate?
Go to other committees to present these issues?
Put Bryan on the spot
Grants to convert courses to online
Gen Ed Task Force: Get with IT: laptops, gen ed course improvement
Faculty 20 positions from A250 for Gen Ed
Should we provide to Gen Ed Task Force? Randall Knoper will communicate, but depts.
Put in the proposals to teach gen ed courses; we are reviewing the 950 gen ed courses that are on the books by next year
Gen Ed Task Force look at gen eds
Small grant incentives from the Provost
Programs to develop online courses of high-quality: components, quality (teaching commons)
Considering all university resources to meet the needs
Timed exams in online courses
Take in a room where there is a TA
Grants to departments to market programs

Our Supply and Demand Tactics document and the summaries of meetings with campus administrators and deans provides a summary of brainstorming of the issues and challenges we face.

Next meeting: Discuss next steps (AY2008-2009) on Supply and Demand Conversation with Ernie and Bryan.
- Shall we meet with the Rules Committee to discuss what our investigations turned up?
- Should we host a conversation with several groups?

AQAD reports: assign 2 standard ones to everyone and assign 2 to each attendees to read and host a discussion at next meeting

Next meeting: May 20, 2008, 1-2:30 pm., CC805-09